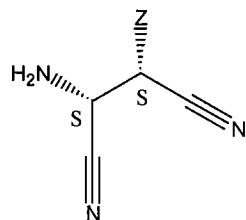


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for synthesizing pentostatin, a pentostatin analog, pentostatin aglycone, or a pentostatin aglycone analog which method comprises the steps of:

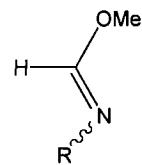
converting a dialkyl tartarate to a succinonitrile derivative having the formula:



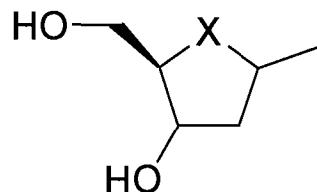
wherein Z is OR₁₅, wherein R₁₅ is a protecting group;

reacting the succinonitrile derivative with an iminoether selected from:

(a) an iminoether having the formula

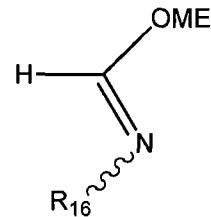


wherein R is H a protecting group or

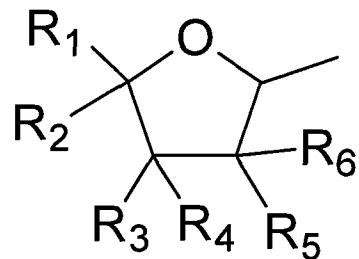


wherein X is O, S, NH, or CH₂; or

(b) an iminoether having the formula

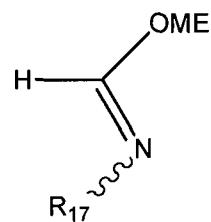


wherein R₁₆ is

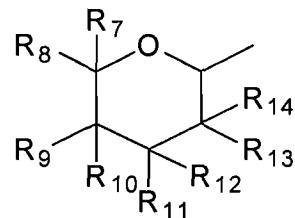


wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, a halogen, a substituted or unsubstituted O-R' group, a substituted or unsubstituted S-R' group, or a NR'R" group, wherein R' and R" are independently a straight-chained or substituted alkyl or alkenyl group; or

(c) an iminoether having the formula



wherein R₁₇ is



wherein R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, a halogen, a substituted or unsubstituted O-R'" group, a substituted or

unsubstituted S-R^{'''} group, or a NR^{''}R^{'''} group, wherein R^{''} or R^{'''} are independently a straight-chained or substituted alkyl or alkenyl group;

to form a imidazole[[-]]~~eontaining ring~~ compound, wherein the imidazole[[-]]~~eontaining ring~~ compound comprises a moiety having a cyano group;

reducing the cyano group on the imidazole[[-]]~~eontaining ring~~ compound to a primary amino group; and

cyclizing the primary amino group with a second amino group on the imidazole[[-]]~~eontaining ring~~ compound; and

removing any protecting groups to obtain pentostatin, pentostatin aglycone, a pentostatin analog compound, wherein the pentostatin compound is selected from:

(a) a pentostatin analog in which the oxygen atom in the sugar moiety is replaced with a sulfur atom, a NH group, or a CH₂ group;

(b) a pentostatin analog in which the sugar moiety is based on arabinose, xylose, ribose, lyxose glucose, galactose, manose, gulose, idose, talose, altrose, allose, fructose, sorbose or tagatose instead of deoxyribose; and

(c) or a pentostatin aglycone analog in which does not contain a sugar moiety, and wherein the carbon atom between the two nitrogen atoms on the seven-member ring is altered.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dialkyl tartarate is in either the L or D enantiomeric form.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the dialkyl tartarate is L-Diethyl tartarate.

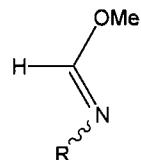
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the dialkyl tartarate is D-Diethyl tartarate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the primary amine has the formula $R_{21}-NH_2$, wherein R_{21} is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyalkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the primary amine is benzyl amine, allyl amine, beta-cyanoethyl amine, or p-methoxy benzyl amine.

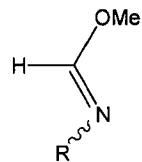
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the iminoether has the formula



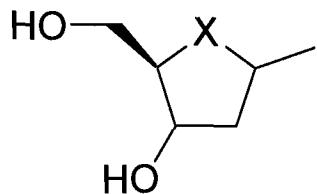
wherein R is deoxyribose, ribose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, lyxose, glucose, galactose, mannose, gulose, idose, talose, altrose, allose, fructose, sorbose, or tagatose.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein R is deoxyribose, the dialkyl tartarate is L-diethyl tartarate, and pentostatin is synthesized.

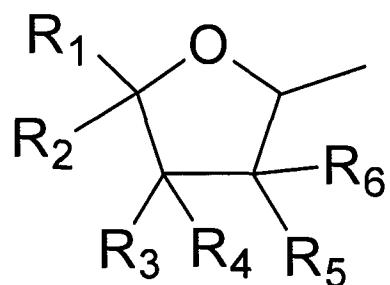
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the iminoether has the formula



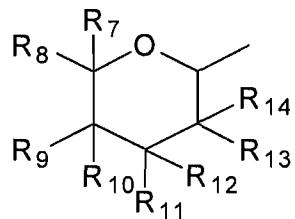
wherein R is



wherein X is O, S, NH, or CH₂; or



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, a halogen, a substituted or unsubstituted O-R' group, a substituted or unsubstituted S-R' group, or a NR'R" group, wherein R' and R" are independently a straight-chained or substituted alkyl or alkenyl group; or



wherein R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, a halogen, a substituted or unsubstituted O-R''' group, a substituted or unsubstituted S-R''' group, or a NR'''R''' group, wherein R''' and R''' are independently a straight-chained or substituted alkyl or alkenyl group.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cyclization is performed with an orthoformate.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the orthoformate has the formula $\text{HC}(\text{OR}_{18})_3$, wherein R_{18} is a straight-chained or substituted alkyl group.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of glycosylating the pentostatin aglycone or the pentostatin aglycone analog.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pentostatin aglycone is glycosylated with deoxyribose to obtain pentostatin.

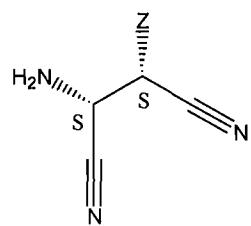
15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R_{15} is TBDMS, $\text{SiPh}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, an acetyl group, dimethoxytrityl, or Methylthioethyl amine.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary amino group comprises a protecting group, and the protecting group is removed after cyclization.

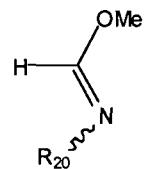
18. (Currently amended) A method for synthesizing pentostatin or a pentostatin analog, which method comprises the steps of :

converting a L diethyl tartrate to a succinonitrile intermediate, the intermediate having the formula:

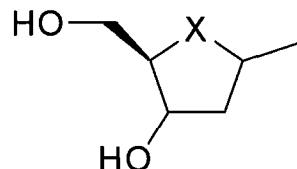


wherein Z is OR_{19} , wherein R_{19} is a protecting group;

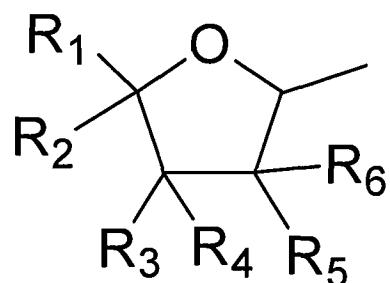
reacting the succinonitrile intermediate with an amino sugar intermediate having the formula:



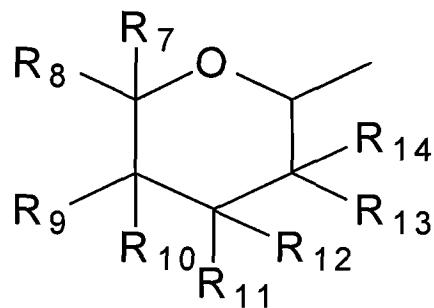
wherein R₂₀ is



wherein X is O, S, NH, or CH₂; or wherein R₂₀ is



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, or a halogen; or wherein R₂₀ is



wherein R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are independently selected from OH, H, methyl, alkyl, CH₂OH, or a halogen,

to form a imidazole[-]containing ring compound, wherein the imidazole[-]containing ring compound comprises a moiety having a cyano group;

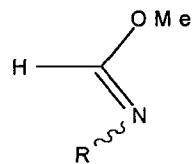
reducing the cyano group on the imidazole[-]containing ring compound to a primary amino group; and

adding a orthoformate to cyclize the primary amino group with a second amino group on the imidazole[-]containing ring compound; and

removing the protecting group to obtain pentostatin or the pentostatin analog compound, wherein the pentostatin analog compound is selected from:

- (a) a pentostatin analog in which the oxygen atom in the sugar moiety is replaced with a sulfur atom, a NH group, or a CH₂ group; and
- (b) a pentostatin analog in which the sugar moiety is based on arabinose, xylose, ribose, lyxose glucose, galactose, manose, gulose, idose, talose, altrose, allose, fructose, sorbose or tagatose instead of deoxyribose.

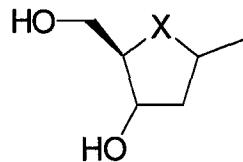
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the amino sugar intermediate has the formula



wherein R is deoxyribose, ribose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, lyxose, glucose, galactose, mannose, gulose, idose, talose, altrose, allose, fructose, sorbose, or tagatose.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein R is deoxyribose.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein R is



wherein X is S, NH, or CH₂.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the iminoether is obtained from a reaction of ammonia or primary amine with a trimethyl orthoester.